



## **FACT SHEET**

### **City of Sedona Residential Trash/Recycling**

Residential trash and recycling service are generally provided by one of the following options:

- **City-wide Program.** City provides, either with City staff and equipment or a contract with a private hauler, trash and recycling services to all households.
- **Individual Household/Homeowner's Association Contracts.** Individual households or homeowner's associations contract with a private hauler for trash and recycling services with no government involvement. This is the current system in Sedona.

In Sedona, City residents and homeowner's associations contract with one of three private haulers. The hauler, type of service, and cost vary from neighbor to neighbor. The Sedona City Council directed City staff to evaluate the feasibility to change from the current system to the City contracting with a private hauler to provide a City-wide residential trash and recycling program.

#### **Economic Benefits of City-wide Programs**

Cities that have implemented city-wide programs have realized economic benefits to the community. The following highlight some of the key economic benefits:

**Lower Service Rates.** The City met one-on-one with each of the current haulers: Patriot, Taylor Waste, and Waste Management, as well as Sedona Recycles and Recycling for Good. All haulers reported that a City-wide program would be materially lower cost than the current fees. City-wide programs result in lower costs since the services are contracted through a competitive selection process. Lower costs are achieved due to increased operational efficiencies and reduced financial risk (such as one bill to the City versus bills to many households).

**Reduced Road Wear.** The City currently has three trash haulers, resulting in up to three different collection vehicles driving down the same road to provide service to households on the street. The road damage caused by one collection vehicle is equivalent to approximately 1,000 car trips. A City-wide program will reduce the number of collection vehicles on City roads and therefore reduce wear and tear of our roadways, leading to reduced road maintenance costs for the City.

#### **Environmental Benefits of City-wide Programs**

In addition to economic benefits, city-wide programs have resulted in environmental benefits to the community. The following highlight some of the key environmental benefits:

**Increased Recycling Rates.** Currently, all residents do not receive curbside recycling services. Cities with curbside recycling service have a higher rate of recyclable materials collected per household. A City-wide program will also provide the City the opportunity to increase public education and outreach regarding the importance of diversion.

**Decreased Fuel Consumption and Emissions.** City-wide programs create operational efficiencies for haulers which reduces both fuel consumption and emissions. Since a City-wide program can provide services to all households on a street on the same route, the program will result in fewer truck miles and less fuel consumed and air pollutants emitted.

## **Common Myths of City-wide Programs**

### **Myth: Small local haulers will never win the contract**

**Fact:** A City-wide program would be contracted through a competitive selection process providing any hauler, including small local haulers, an opportunity to be awarded the City-wide program contract. The City would seek to provide the best value to residents. Selection criteria often include cost as well as experience, references, and proposed approach. The City may promote local experience as a criterion resulting in small local haulers having an advantage to winning the contract.

### **Myth: City-wide program creates a monopoly and increases costs**

**Fact:** The most effective method of keeping rates low is to periodically re-bid services through an open and competitive process. If the City would contract for services, the City would re-bid the services on a periodic basis (e.g. every five years), allowing interested haulers to bid as well as ensure that residents continue to receive the lowest rates available.

### **Myth: City-wide program will result in lower service**

**Fact:** As part of the City-wide program, the City could provide service enhancements (e.g. curbside recycling service, large item service), in a cost effective manner, due to the economies of scale. A City-wide program would be managed by City staff and elected officials. The City will detail the responsibilities of the haulers and performance standards in the contract. In addition, the City will require performance assurances to ensure residents receive a high level of service.

### **Myth: City-wide program will result in loss of jobs and reduce contributions to the community**

**Fact:** The City-wide program could provide additional services (e.g. curbside recycling service, large item service). Therefore, the hauler awarded the contract would likely employ the same or more employees. The City would seek to contract with a hauler that acknowledges the importance of contributing to the community.

## **Process/Next Steps**

The City is seeking input from the community on the current and future residential trash and recycling program. The City has met one-on-one with each of the current haulers. The next key step to evaluating the residential trash and recycling program is requesting insight from residents. The City is currently conducting telephone survey of residents. If contacted, we request your participation in this important survey so that the City can understand the opinion and needs of residents. In addition, the City will be facilitating public meetings and focus groups to provide residents an additional opportunity to participate in determining the City's future residential trash and recycling program. The public meetings are tentatively planned to be held the first week of February. The survey is being conducted to ascertain if citizens want a single-hauler model, and if so, under what scenarios, i.e. lower costs, improved service, increased recycling, etc.

Once the vendor and public input process has been completed, staff will return to the City Council to present the findings of the public input and ask Council for further direction. Staff is tentatively planning to present to City Council in or around March.

## **Additional Information**

For additional information, please contact the City Manager's Office at (928) 204-7127 or email Assistant City Manager Karen Daines at [kdaines@SedonaAZ.gov](mailto:kdaines@SedonaAZ.gov).